

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the captioned application. The amendment to the specification adds related application information. For clarification purposes, claims 1-12 are cancelled without prejudice and new claims 13-31 are added.

The Office Action rejected claims 1-4 and 8-12 as being anticipated by Lin. It rejected claims 1 and 5 as being anticipated by Kutzke. It rejected claims 6 and 7 as being rendered obvious by Lin in view of Torr.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. For example, the Lin mount 4 (that the Office Action characterized as the claimed cradle) is rotated to anchor the golf club shafts and to prevent them from shifting and scraping other golf club shafts (Lin, 2:35-38). This does not disclose or suggest switching from right-handed club support to left-handed club support, as in some of the claims.

As another example, claims 6 and 7 require the claimed arms to be formed as a plurality of ribs extending from a spine. The rationale in the example of the written disclosure is to diminish manufacturing cost. (Para. 32). The Office Action erroneously asserted that it would be obvious to add ribs to the Lin surfaces 42 because of the Torr hand held tool for cleaning mud and debris from grooves in the head of a golf club (Torr, 1:38-40). The Office Action erroneously asserted a motivation for an allegedly obvious improvement that could simultaneously clean and store

golf clubs throughout a round of golf. However, the Lin surfaces 42 are for guiding the shafts and are not designed to touch the heads of the golf clubs. Furthermore, trying to scrape any ribs (added to surfaces 42) through grooves in the head of a golf club would defeat the purpose of the Lin invention, which is to prevent golf clubs from shifting or scraping other golf clubs. Finally, the Lin invention is for mounting in a golf bag, and no one would want that mud and debris to fall into his golf bag. In addition, Torr discloses that its tool be "**detachably**" mounted to a golf bag permitting its "**removal for use as desired.**" (Torr, 2:45). Torr does not disclose or suggest making its tool part of, or using its tool in conjunction with, a frame for preventing golf clubs from shifting around in a golf bag as in Lin. Therefore, neither Lin nor Torr provides any suggestion for combining the two. There also is no support that anyone of ordinary skill in the art would be motivated to combine the two, or for the assertion in the Office Action that the combination of Torr and Lin is feasible or even is an improvement. An attempt to encompass the claim limitations was the only motivation for the combination in the Office Action - i.e., impermissible hindsight.

Regardless, new claims 13-31 clarify the invention. Claims 13-16 are supported, for example, by paragraphs 8-10. Claim 17 is supported, for example, by paragraph 11. Claims 18-20 are supported, for example, by paragraph 12. Claim 21 is supported, for example, by paragraph 39. Claims 22-24 are supported, for

example, by paragraph 13. Claims 25-27 are supported, for example, by paragraph 28. Claims 28 and 29 are supported, for example, by paragraph 40. Claims 30 and 31 are supported, for example, by Figures 1-9.

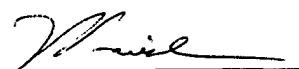
Individually or in combination, the references cited in the Office Action do not suggest any of claims 13-31. For example, there is no suggestion of a cradle having two troughs on two sides of the cradle, respectively, and of the the cradle being configured for the head of a golf club to rest on one side of the cradle or the other depending on the orientation of the cradle relative to a support member.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and request reconsideration and allowance. Should the Examiner be of the opinion that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the application, the applicants request the Examiner to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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